Russia. Only those natives guilty of rebellion or the murder of Russian officials and officers can be sentenced to death by the rope or by shooting, by court-martial, instituted each time 'ad hoc'. The decisions at these court-martials, which always consist of five army officers and an auditor, must still be confirmed by the Governor General. During my fifteen years in Tashkent, there were only three such cases, of which the first two occurred during the Kokand uprising in 1876. This is an honorable record for the Russians and the natives alike.

9. System of Instruction.

The system of instruction among the sedentary population of Turkestan is highly developed and the number of schools is very /219/ large, although education is a private matter, and the native governments provide neither for the erection of schools nor for the salaries of teachers. In Turkestan there are two classes of schools, elementary schools or 'mekhtebes', and higher schools or medreses.

The teachers in the elementary schools are mullahs, just as in the higher schools. In each elementary school there is only one teacher who instructs the students of all ages in one and the same place. These teachers receive no fixed salary. Their entire income consists in the school fees which the students bring them voluntarily, which, however, are never more than a mark a year at most, and in occasional gifts of provisions, which they receive every Thursday, and festive clothes which they receive from the parents of their students at the time of the high Moslem festivals. There is a special custom that the father of a boy presents the teacher with a khalat when the boy has progressed far enough to start reading the Koran.

There are no real schoolhouses. In winter instruction is held either in the dwelling of the teacher, in an ordinary, unheated, windowless chamber, lighted only by the open door, or, if the teacher does not have a large enough place at his disposal it is held in the appropriate mosque.

In summer, on the contrary, the instruction is usually held outside on a veranda, in a shaded courtyard or in a garden. School attendance is not obligatory, as a result of which the schools are frequented primarily only by the children of the rich. The majority of the students are boys, but there are some girls among them, especially from the better classes, who receive elementary education as well.